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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

USSR/Western Europe

SUBJECT

SBOR (Union of the Struggle for the Liberation
of the Peoples of Russia)

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DATE DISTR. 30 Jun 1953

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

25X1

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. SBOR (Union of the Struggle for the Liberation of the Peoples of Russia) is generally agreed to be the largest and most active of Soviet emigre groups next to NTS (National Union of Labor). There are probably 100 to 200 members, but actual size of membership does not mean much as it includes large numbers of fairly recent defectors who, as a group, of necessity, are opportunists. Antonov, the president of the organization, is a compromise candidate as there was great difficulty in finding any one willing to devote full time to the work. Antonov is generally considered as an extremely primitive man, shallow, petty in judgment of people, and childish in his reactions to problems. The real brain of the outfit is the #2 man Grusin. He furnishes the ideas and Antonov "puts out of his hand". Grusin, at one time, headed the secret section of the group. He is considered to have done a bad job during this period. The fact that he did not stay in Berlin at the time resulted in accusations of cowardice. The group has been active periodically in the past. About four years ago they tried to develop a program along NTS lines. This program was tossed aside about a year ago as being too complicated. The new SBOR program contains only two basic planks in its platform:
 - (a) No pre-determination.
 - (b) Continuation of the liberation movement begun in 1917.

2. In discussing the abandoning of the NTS-type program, Antonov told me, "The NTS program is too complicated - it is too deep for me - it must be too deep for the Soviets". SBOR has one great advantage - the makeup of the organization in terms of ethnic origins is parallel to the population makeup of the USSR. Antonov told me that 48 percent were Soviet, and 42 percent non-Soviet. He broke them down to 22 percent Ukrainian, nine percent Byelorussian, six percent Caucasian (Turkish etc) and five percent Tartar. As an organization SBOR is anti-"old emigre", and, anti-Menshevik. The group brags of its operations, but I am informed that these operations amount to very little. As far as I can find

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out, there have been no operations since mid-1952. This particular action was described to me by Antonov very boastfully as "a great achievement". He said that on May Day 1952 they had distributed a total of 60 thousand leaflets, behind the Iron Curtain, and in cities all over the world. This number of leaflets sent by balloon behind the Iron Curtain, alone would not be considered as a large operation. SDRE is largely composed of men between 20 and 50 years of age. The majority of the membership are post-1941 emigres. The group is supported by private subscriptions.

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